

Selected Topics Seminar 3

**RELIGION, NATIONALISM AND CONFLICTS
IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

College of Liberal Studies
Seoul National University

Wednesday, June 29 to Friday, July 29.
1 p.m.- 4 p.m. Korea Standard Time (KST). 9pm to 12 am PST
Summer 2022, 3 credits

Professor: James Wellman

Office Hours: please make an appointment by e-mail

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Professor Wellman's Website: <http://faculty.washington.edu/jwellman/>

Course Description

This course offers an in-depth and comparative analysis of the rise of religious nationalisms around the world. Religion, in one form or another, has been from the beginning central to how national imaginations have built their identity. We will use key contemporary research on the rise of ethnicity, religion, and nationalism not only to become more responsible and responsive citizens but also for the sake of understanding how religion has become a major factor in these processes. We will discern how we can contribute and join in the battle for a more enlightened, peaceful, and inclusive community, state, and nation. Our lives are constructed and instructed by ethnicity, religion, and our national identity, it is incumbent on us to be aware of where these structures come from and the ways in which they inform our thinking, as well as to become more sophisticated observers and critics of our national stories and ideals. This will include thinking about policy and policymaking as we move forward in a world fraught with conflict and tensions over identity, ethnicity, religion, and nationalism.

Course Goals

- To become aware of our pre-understandings, whether religious or secular for the sake of understanding the relation of ethnicity, religion, and the state. In this process we call this *cross-cultural religious literacy*, awareness of self and our context is critical in this process, including our own faith (whether secular or religious) and that of the other, and the interaction between the two.
- To identify the history of the relationship between religion and nationalism, and possible and potential avenues of negotiation, mediation, and reconciliation.
- To apply a critical lens and reflect an articulate voice on the religious events in global religious politics, as well as developing policy for the sake of creating greater peace and stability for those in tension and war.

- To prepare students to take on the role as scholars, citizens, and policy makers in the study of religion and international affairs and in the practice of scholarship, diplomacy and citizenship

Teaching Goals:

- To create an environment where questions and dialogue are expected.
- To logically unfold the material presented in the course.
- To be a resource for your critical and creative thinking and research.

Required Texts:

**A World After Liberalism: Philosophers of the Radical Right*. Yale Press, 2021. Matthew Rose. 97803000243116.

**Contestation and Adaptation: The Politics of National Identity in China*. Oxford, 2016. Enze Han. 978-0190624019.

**Majoritarian State: How Hindu nationalism is Changing India*. London: Hurst Press, 2019. Angana P. Chatterji, Thomas Blom Hansen and Christopher Jaffrelat, ed. 9781787381476.

**Meir Kahane: The Public Life and Political Thought of an American Jewish Radical*. Princeton, 2021. Shaul Magid. 9780691179339.

**Militant Buddhism: The Rise of Religious Violence in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand*. Palgrave, 2019. Peter Lehr. 9783030035167.

**Revolution without Revolutionaries: Making Sense of the Arab Spring*. Asef Bayat. 2017. 978-1503602588.

**The Flag and the Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy*. Phil Gorski and Samuel Perry. Oxford Press, 2022.

**The War on the Uyghurs: China's Internal Campaign Against a Muslim Minority*. Princeton Univ. Press, 2020. Sean Roberts. 9780691202181.

Course Requirements:

This class will achieve its aims only if students come to class regularly, having done the required readings and formed some ideas about what the readings have to say; this participation includes discussion leadership, **(25 potential points for your specific discussion leadership)**. Students will write five short reading reports, due at the beginning of class worth **20 points each, (100 possible points each)**. There will be a final 12-15-page paper due to analyze and explain a case study in religion and nationalism on a case study of your own choosing. **(50 points for essay; 25 points for class presentation)**. The final paper is due Wednesday, August 3rd to me electronically; there are no exceptions to these deadlines. **Total possible points: 200.**

Short Reading Report Papers: Students will turn in four reading reports on the dates indicated above. Each report should be 2 - 3 pages long. These reports should create a thesis, which tackles a problem or question on the issue of religious nationalism, and then argue the thesis based on your evaluation of the text; including its validity and whether or not it brings something new to the question of the relation between religion and nationalism. **These reports will be due at the beginning of the class session. No late papers will be accepted. You will not be able to turn in your paper by proxy or electronically if you are not present in class.**

Discussion Leaders: For each session we will have one or two discussion leaders. These will introduce the author(s) and prepare a brief synopsis of the readings and discussion questions. Each week, discussion leaders will start the class with a presentation of their synopsis and questions. These presentations should last about 15 minutes.

To promote an environment conducive to learning: I would prefer no electronics in class, primarily to encourage your full attention and engagement with me and your fellow students. It is recommended that you come to class on time and stay for the duration.

Religious Accommodations: UW policy makes all reasonable religious accommodations available to students who, due to the observance of religious holidays, expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship during certain days of the course or program. Please let me know how I can be of service to you in any way for your religious needs.

All assigned work must be typed.

All work is due on the assigned date unless the student can prove medical incompetence or personal catastrophe. Otherwise, late work will not be accepted and will receive the grade of 0.0. I also do not give "Incompletes" without the above documentation as noted.

Professor Wellman's Grading Scale:

"A" Range:	"B" Range:	"C" Range:	"D" Range:	"F"
196 - >200 = 4.0	176 - 179 = 3.4	148 = 2.4	128 = 1.4	<57 = 0.0
192 - 195 = 3.9	171 - 175 = 3.3	146 = 2.3	126 = 1.3	
190 - 191 = 3.8	167 - 170 = 3.2	144 = 2.2	124 = 1.2	
186 - 189 = 3.7	163 - 166 = 3.1	142 = 2.1	122 = 1.1	
183 - 185 = 3.6	160 - 162 = 3.0	140 = 2.0	120 = 1.0	
180 - 182 = 3.5	158 = 2.9	138 = 1.9	118 = 0.9	
	156 = 2.8	136 = 1.8	116 = 0.8	
	154 = 2.7	134 = 1.7	114 = 0.7	
	152 = 2.6	132 = 1.6		
	150 = 2.5	130 = 1.5		

Specific Criteria for Evaluating Papers:

- 1) The writing is articulate, including grammar, sentence structure and language.
- 2) The student has understood text well enough to be critical and analytical.
- 3) The student approaches the subject in an engaging and creative way.

Grading Philosophy:

Final grades will not be based on a curve. The course is taught to mastery. That is, if you master the material and express your ideas in a clear, critical, and creative way you can attain a very good score. I will pass out a numerical grading guide that will correspond to the total possible points of 200.

Academic Conduct

I will strictly enforce the University of Washington Student Conduct code, including the policy on plagiarism. For your reference, the entire code can be found at <http://www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html>.

Disabled Students

If you would like to request accommodations due to a disability, please contact the admin office of the College of Liberal Studies (cls.snu.ac.kr, +82-2-880-9536). Additional resources may be found at SNU Center for Students with Disabilities (snudanbi.snu.ac.kr, +82-2-880-8787).

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

1. Introduction to the Study of Comparative Religious Nationalisms

- Wed 6.29 Organizational Session and Introduction:
*Cross Cultural Religious Literacy:
* “Towards a Global Covenant of Peaceable Neighborhood:
Introducing the Philosophy of Covenantal Pluralism.”
Copy of article provided.
- Thurs. 6.30 *Brubaker Article provided: “Religion and Nationalisms”
Lecture on Trump’s Religious Nationalism

Short Paper Assignment #1: Two-page paper that gives a theoretical understanding of the relation of religion and nationalism and how covenantal pluralism can respond to it. Due Monday 7.4

2. Case Studies in Religion and nationalism:

- Mon. 7.4 **The Flag and the Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy*. Gorski and Perry
- Wed. 7.6 **A World after Liberalism*. Matthew Rose.
Short Paper Assignment #2: Why is Liberalism Failing?
- Thurs. 7.7 *Meir Kahane: *The Public Life of an American Jewish Radical*. Princeton Univ. Press, 2021.
- Mon. 7.11 **Militant Buddhism*. Pg. 1-114.
- Wed. 7.13 **Militant Buddhism*: Pg.115-270
Short Paper Assignment #3: Explore the rise of violence in Buddhism or Judaism.
- Thurs. 7.14. * *Majoritarian State: How Hindu Nationalism is Changing India*. Pick 1 chapter from Part 1-8.

- Mon. 7.18. * *Revolution without Revolutionaries: Making Sense of the Arab Spring*. Read Pg. 1-91.
- Wed. 7.20 * *Contestation and Adaptation: The Politics of National Identity in China*. Read Pg. 1-64.
Short Paper Assignment #4: Pick India, the Arab World Or China and Explain the Rise of Violent Nationalism.
- Thurs. 7.21 * *The War on the Uyghurs*. Half the class, read first half, chapter 1-3; other half read chapters 4-6.
- Mon. 7.25 * *On Tyranny*. Timothy Snyder: Expanded Oral Book. Russia and Ukraine. Listen to the whole book on-line.
Short Paper Assignment #5: Explain Violence Against the Uyghurs or the War between Russia and Ukraine.

3. Student Presentations of your Final Comparative Case Studies in Religion, Nationalism, and International Conflict

Wed. 7.27
 Thurs. 7.28
 Friday. 7.29

Student Presentation will be your initial research and conclusions on the work you are doing for your final paper, described below.

Final paper (12-15 pages) will be due Aug. 3rd, by email to Prof. Wellman. jwellman@uw.edu. Please answer: Choose two case studies in religion and nationalism, compare, and explain in depth, using one or two of the conceptual and theoretical grids that we covered in the course.